



NEWS RELEASE



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Media Advisory:

The United States will honor the men and women who serve as Public Safety Telecommunicators during National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, April 9-15, 2006. Introduced to Congress by the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International in 1991, National Public Safety Telecommunications Week is the second week of April each year.

Every day, millions of people in the United States depend on the skill, expertise and commitment of the men and women who work in public safety telecommunications. These individuals help save countless lives by responding to emergency calls, dispatching emergency professionals and providing moral support to citizens in distress. Last year in Alachua County, our Combined Communications Center (CCC) answered 144,279 9-1-1 calls and 303,863 administrative calls, while dispatching 288,034 calls for service to the ACSO, GPD, ACFR, GFR, rural contracted municipal fire departments, and the Waldo Police Department.

The Telecommunicators in the CCC have been specifically trained as "first responders" in medical emergencies and can give telephone guidance for Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), bleeding control, childbirth, and choking, just to name a few, until emergency medical personnel arrive.

By officially recognizing these public safety telecommunications professionals, we hope to enhance public awareness and promote much-needed education regarding important public safety issues and legislation.

Anyone wishing to tour the CCC is invited to an open house on Friday, April 14, 2006 between 9 a.m and 4 p.m. If you would like more information about National Public Safety Telecommunications Week, please contact Operations Bureau Chief Keith Godwin at 264-6662.